

CONTACT: Brenda Bufford
CPLTC
(916) 552-8990

-or-

Michael Miller
Brown·Miller Commun.
(800) 710-9333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State's Long-Term Care Director Ends Decade-Long Career Protecting Californians

SACRAMENTO, CA, June 14, 2004... The Director of California's Partnership for Long-Term Care (Partnership), Sandra Pierce Miller, today announced her plans to retire effective July 1, ending a decade-long stint that saw the creation of the Partnership and its expansion to help over 67,000 Californians avoid impoverishment due to long-term care needs.

In 1994, the California Department of Health Services established the Partnership to educate Californians about long-term care issues and increase private long-term care insurance sales, thereby reducing impoverishment among elderly Californians and the demand on Medi-Cal. Under Miller's direction, the fledgling program saw dramatic growth and enhancement to meet California's expanding needs, especially as the State's baby-boomer generation moves toward retirement.

"Helping Californians confront, plan and prepare for the realities of long-term care has been an exciting and worthy challenge," says Miller. "Passionate, dedicated advocates, experts, insurance firms and agents have helped me navigate a course for the Partnership and kept our program vital and responsive to the changing demographics and needs of Californians."

As the Partnership's Project Director, Miller's responsibilities have been expansive, including working with selected insurance companies to develop State-approved policies that offer middle-income Californians affordable, quality long-term care insurance policies. Additionally, she oversaw the Partnership's consumer education program, developing a myriad of tools and resources to help Californians plan for this possibility.

Today, the Partnership is helping more than 20,000 additional Californians a year secure their future with Partnership long-term care policies. Miller hopes that a soon to be introduced employer initiative she helped create and select will double those figures.

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When Miller retires in July, Deputy Project Director Brenda Bufford, a five-year Partnership veteran and former insurance agent, will assume leadership of the program as Acting Project Director.

For more information on the Partnership, call 1-800-CARE-445 or visit the Web site at www.dhs.ca.gov/cpltc.

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